



“When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory”
(Psalm 102:16).

When Royalty Reigns

Central Truth: Christ’s end-time reign causes believers to look ahead with hope.

L297. Date: November 1987. **Text:** Psalm 102:11-22.

Topic: Christ: Reign of; End Times.

Here is another of the great songs of the people of God. We call it Psalm 102. Its superscription reads “A prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD.”

Psalm 102 is historical¹. Its background is the Babylonian captivity of Judah. The people languish in a foreign land. They look with longing to the time of restoration to their homeland and the rebuilding of Jerusalem, their capital city.

Psalm 102 is prophetic. In the midst of anguish, it raises a message of hope. There is a recognition that the Messiah King will deliver His people. The nation will be restored and He shall reign over her to her delight. That time has not fully come, but it will come.

Psalm 102 is spiritual. It describes the reign of the Savior King, Jesus Christ, in the hearts of those who trust Him. While it looks to the past and future, it speaks to the present. The psalm is worthy of our study.

The Bible presents a mystery in the kingdom of God. It is present already, yet it is to come in the future. It is a spiritual reign of Christ in our hearts, yet it will be manifest in the last days in political dominion over the world. It will exercise authority over all people, yet only those who are born again are said to be its citizens. It is the kingdom of God, yet humans are its citizens. It is a mystery, yet it is revealed to us today. Praise God that He has taken His great power and is reigning (Revelation 11:17).

I. AN UNENDING REIGN (Psalm 102:11, 12)

A. The unending reign of God contrasts with the limitations of humans. Man recognizes that his life is so temporary it is like a shadow; he withers like grass (Psalm 102:11). He says, *“Our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding”* (I Chronicles 29:15). That is not the discouraged sentiments of a pessimist. God says, *“Ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”* (James 4:14).

Man lives a few years and dies. One generation follows another. But through them all the dominion of God remains unchanged and undiminished. His kingdom is eternal, enduring from generation to generation (Daniel 4:32; 6:26; 7:14).

B. The unending reign of God magnifies divine immutability. Psalm 102:12 reads, *“Thou, O LORD, shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.”*

God says, *“I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever”* (Deuteronomy 32:40). The saints of God respond, *“Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations”* (Psalm 145:13). We rejoice that none can overthrow His kingdom from without and it will never experience decay within (Daniel 7:13, 14). God does not change, so His dominion does not change. We are citizens in His everlasting kingdom through grace (II Peter 1:11).

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28).

II. A COMPASSIONATE REIGN (Psalm 102:13-20)

Power often corrupts the powerful. A good person can become bad when power is given to his hands. Not so with God. Though He is an absolute monarch in power, He is a compassionate Father in attitude toward us.

A. God remembers His own (Psalm 102:13, 14). *“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered”* (Psalm 40:5). Does that mean that God thinks about us all the time? Yes! His thoughts are not based on our merit. *“I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me”* (Psalm 40:17).

God thinks about us, but what does He think about us? The Lord answers, *"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, . . . thoughts of peace"* (Jeremiah 29:11). They are loving and precious thoughts (Psalm 139:17). He never forgets us.

B. God answers prayer. *"He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer"* (Psalm 102:17). He will hear. He will answer. He hears when we call and delivers us in such way as to meet our needs and honor His name. (Read the promise of Psalm 91:9-16 and rejoice.)

When does God answer? *"It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear"* (Isaiah 65:24). That is immediate, isn't it? And the promise is to you!

C. God enlists praise. Future generations will hear of the work of God with us and praise Him for it (Psalm 102:18). He is worthy of the praise of all people (Psalm 67:3). *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name"* (Hebrews 13:15). Read the list of things for which we should praise God, as recorded in Psalm 16:1-9. If you have problems knowing what to thank God for, that list will keep you busy for a long time. God inhabits the praises of His people. Praise the Lord personally and continually.

D. God rescues saints. He looks down from the height of His heavenly sanctuary because He hears the groans of those who are burdened. He hears, looks, and helps (Psalm 102:19, 20). His angel encamps around those who trust Him to protect them (Psalm 34:7). He covers the saints as a hen covers her chicks with her wings (Psalm 91:4). *"We may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me"* (Hebrews 13:6). He can help in such a way that no one can hinder. Praise God for being such a God to us.

Do you see the compassion of God in Psalm 102:13-20? He remembers His own, answers prayer, enlists praise, and rescues saints. He works, not on the basis of our merit, but just because He loves us and wants to help us. Praise His name. You can trust such a God to govern you with compassion.

III. A GLORIOUS REIGN (Psalm 102:21, 22)

What a day it will be when the kingdom of God is manifest on earth in its fullness. I long to see that day come, don't you? What will happen then, according to Psalm 102:21, 22?

A. His name will be declared. The place of worship will manifest His great name (Psalm 102:21). What a day that will be. *"From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the*

Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 1:11). We Christians anticipate that day each time we pray, *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name”* (Matthew 6:9). His reign will show the majesty of His name.

B. His praise will be received. Typical of the praises offered to Him are the words of Nehemiah 9:5, *“Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.”* He alone is Lord and He alone is worthy to be praised. *“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, . . . and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses”* (Isaiah 63:7). The angelic hosts join all the other inhabitants of heaven giving praise to Him now (Revelation 5, 7). Think what it will be when all the saints of God are before Him, offering Him praises. That will be a time worth sharing.

C. His service will be rendered (Psalm 102:22). Heaven will not be a place of idleness. We will serve God there as we have served Him here (Revelation 22:3). Since we have received *“a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (Hebrews 12:28).

Jesus Christ is King already. He reigns over the spiritual kingdom of God today. His kingdom is everlasting and His dominion extends through all ages. What a privilege it is to be a citizen in His kingdom and yield to the dominion of His grace. What a thrill it is to know that *“the LORD shall reign for ever and ever”* (Exodus 15:18). Glory!

Questions

1. What is the historical background of Psalm 102?
2. What is the prophetic message of Psalm 102?
3. How does the message of Psalm 102 relate to you?
4. What proof can you give that the reign of God is unending?
5. What encouragement do you find in Psalm 40:5?
6. How does the thought of God's kingdom cause us to praise Him?
7. How does Malachi 1:11 relate to the kingdom of God?
8. Why is the kingdom of God filled with His praises?
9. What assurance do you find in Hebrews 12:28?
10. How can you represent the interests of the kingdom of God this week?